



BALANCE

AUG
1994

The Official Publication of the Law Society of the Northern Territory

Family law seminar caps a feast of activities in August

A family law seminar has capped a busy timetable of events for Darwin practitioners.

A weekend advocacy skills workshop and the opening of the Commonwealth Law Courts were other highlights for the month.

Twenty-seven lawyers from Darwin and Katherine attended the family law seminar at the Plaza Hotel on Saturday, August 13.

It was partially funded by a \$6,000 grant from the Public Purposes Trust.

Papers covering various family law issues were delivered by members of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia. They included:

- * Superannuation in family law: the present and the future (Michael Taussig);

- * Redundancy payments and long service leave: how are they to be brought into account in property settlements? (Michael Watt);

- * Current financial issues in family law property matters (Jennifer Boland);

- * Locating assets — overcoming non-disclosure and complex financial structures (Ian Kennedy);

- * An overview of the role of the separate representative in the Family Court (Fran Brennan);

- * Separate representation: re K and the future (Michael Habermann).

The seminar was introduced by Family Law Section Chairman Rod Burr, who will be remembered by many Territory practitioners as the colourful guest of this year's Law Week luncheons.

Law Society councillor Eileen Terrill said the response from practitioners was very positive.

"The material was interesting and informative and I think all practitioners who attended felt it was very worthwhile," Ms Terrill said.

"I was particularly impressed with the number of attendees, especially considering the relatively small

number of lawyers practising family law in the Territory.

"It was very useful to meet the people from 'down south'. They can help us put our case (as family law practitioners) with a national knowledge and perspective rather than simply a Territory one."

A set of papers from the seminar is available for \$40 from the Family Law Section Administrator, Law Council of Australia, GPO Box 1989, Canberra ACT 2601.

Another popular activity held this month was the weekend advocacy skills workshop at the Supreme Court, Darwin from August 5-7.

Thirty-six practitioners attended the event, which was organised by the Australian Advocacy Institute.

Designed for lawyers at all levels, the workshop saw practitioners divided into groups according to their experience in law.

The instructors were both skilled advocates and trained advocacy teachers and included Sydney Tilmouth QC, Stephen Walsh QC, Chris Kourakis and Darwin-based Trevor Riley QC.

August started in fine style when Federal Attorney General Michael Lavarch officially opened the renovated Commonwealth Law Courts (Darwin's old Supreme Court) on August 2.

More than 100 invited guests — including many members of the Territory legal fraternity — attended the opening, which included an address by the Chief Justice, Federal Court of Australia, the Honourable Justice Michael Black, and the Deputy Chief Justice, Family Court of Australia, the Honourable Justice Alan Barblett.

Aboriginal painter George Liwukan Bukulatjpi, of Elcho Island, spoke through an interpreter about his painting — Land and Law at Gurrarama — which adorns the courts building.

The courts will be used by the Federal Court, Family Court, Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Industrial Relations Court and the National Native Title Tribunal.